

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for topical application comprising at least one ascorbic acid precursor with the exception of ascorbic acid esters and at least one enzyme that converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucoronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.05% to 30% by weight with respect to the total composition weight, and wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is present in a quantity of 0.01% to 50% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

2-5. Cancelled.

6. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbosone dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase.

8. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from an extract from plants, animals, insects or from microorganisms.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in an encapsulated form.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme and/or said at least one precursor are in the form of microcapsules or microgranules.

13. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is in the form of a crude extract, a purified enzyme solution, an enzyme immobilized on a matrix, in the solid or liquid form, in the liquid or solid freeze-dried form, or included in a controlled release device.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one precursor is present in a quantity of 0.1% to 10% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

18-30. Withdrawn.

31. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 6, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately.

32. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 6, wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged in separate compartments.

33. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 1, wherein said at least one enzyme originates from *in vivo-* or *in vitro-* obtained differentiated or dedifferentiated cells.

34. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises ascorbic acid.

35. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 13, wherein said matrix is a sol-gel matrix.

36. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one ascorbic acid precursor and at least one enzyme that converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucoronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof, and wherein said at least one enzyme and said at least one precursor are packaged separately, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.05% to 30% by weight with respect to the total composition weight, and wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is present in a quantity of 0.01% to 50% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

37. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one ascorbic acid precursor and at least one enzyme that converts said precursor to ascorbic acid, wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone, L-gulono-1,4-lactone, D-glucorono-1,4-lactone, D-glucoronic acid, D-mannose, D-galacturonic acid, D-glucose, D-galactose, L-galactose, and mixtures thereof, and wherein said at least one enzyme is selected from the group consisting of L-galactono-1,4-lactone dehydrogenase, L-galactose dehydrogenase, L-sorbose dehydrogenase, L-gulono-1,4-lactone oxidase, and mixtures thereof, wherein said at least one enzyme is present in a quantity of 0.05% to 30% by weight with respect to the total composition weight, and

wherein said at least one ascorbic acid precursor is present in a quantity of 0.01% to 50% by weight with respect to the total composition weight.

38. (Previously Added) The composition according to Claim 37, wherein said composition further comprises ascorbic acid.